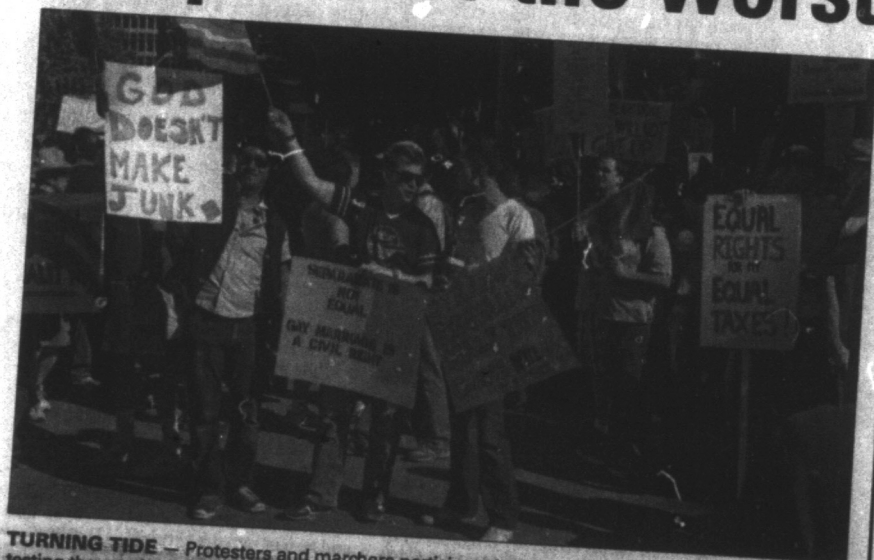


Prepare for the worst



TURNING TIDE — Protesters and marchers participate in a rally at Los Angeles' City Hall protesting the passing of California's Proposition 8 banning same sex marriage. Not only has Proposition 8 since been overturned, legalized same-sex marriage is on a trajectory to become law in 35 states. (Garry Boughan / Shutterstock.com)

Gipson: Gay marriage coming to Mississippi

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Legalized same-sex marriage is on a trajectory to become law in 35 states, and a Baptist pastor who also serves in the Mississippi Legislature warns the state's residents should prepare for the worst.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently declined to hear appeals of lower federal court rulings favorable to same sex marriage, which had the effect of legalizing same sex marriage

in several states. The most recent blow came Oct. 7, when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco struck down a pair of state laws that limited marriage to a man and a woman.

The appeals court's ruling is expected to take effect in three other states within its jurisdiction that had similar traditional marriage laws.

see MARRIAGE on p. 9



"People of religious conviction need to be processing what this means for the culture, and how we will respond to these issues in coming years — how we will maintain our religious convictions in this environment."

Andy Gipson
Mississippi House of Representatives member

KBC recommends severing church ties

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — The Committee on Credentials of the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) on Oct. 9 recommended severing ties with Crescent Hill Church, a Louisville congregation that has voted to perform same sex marriages and ordain individuals who identify as lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, and transgender.

"We're grieved by Crescent Hill's departure from biblical

teaching and Baptist beliefs," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "We're prayerful that they will return to the truth of Scripture on this issue and seek to be restored."

"We're thankful that Kentucky Baptists remain grounded in the Bible as our culture continues to rush headlong toward chaos with regard to human sexuality and gay marriage. Our love for all people, including those who practice

homosexuality, requires us to speak the truth about sin even when we are speaking it to one another."

KBC leaders were alerted to Crescent Hill Church's vote by the following statement on the church's website: "The congregation overwhelmingly voted to be open to grant ordination, hire, or perform wedding ceremonies for LGBTQ individuals."

see KBC on p. 9

CP closes slightly below last year's contributions

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) ended its fiscal year .76% below last year's contributions and missed its Cooperative Program (CP) allocation budgeted projection of \$191.5 million by 2.6%, according to SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page.

The SBC received \$186,567,610.63 in CP Allocation Budget gifts during the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, 2013, and closed on Sept. 30. The total was \$1,433,665 less than the \$188,001,276 received during the last fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2013.

"We have been monitoring CP gifts closely since the Great Recession and believe we may have reached the nadir, or lowest point, for national Cooperative Program gifts," Page said. "Individual giving to churches continues to lag behind other sectors of charitable giving in the United States, but we remain prayerfully optimistic that through a combination of the '1% CP challenge' and a renewed commitment of individual giving through churches, we will see an uptick in CP funding for our missions and ministries over the next several years."

In designated giving, the fiscal year's total of \$194,678,166 is .81% above the previous year's \$193,106,286. Of this amount, \$193,926,535 was received and disbursed to the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) through the seasonal missions offerings and Global Hunger Relief, the former World Hunger Fund.

The balance was designated for other SBC entities or the SBC Operating Budget. Combined designated gifts to SBC causes and CP Allocation Budget gifts showed a slight .04% increase over the same time last year.

"The Atlas of Giving forecasts that giving to religious organizations will decline by two percent year-to-year, so the fact that our national CP giving was down by less than

one percent and overall giving was actually slightly up shows we are bucking the trend," Page said. "The '1% CP Challenge' coupled with focused prayer may have made all the difference for Southern Baptists over the past few years."

The CP is Southern Baptists' channel of giving, begun in 1925, through which a local church can contribute to the ministries of its state convention and the missions and ministries of the SBC with a single monthly or weekly contribution. Monies include receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 2013-14 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

The convention-adopted budget was distributed as follows: 50% to international missions through IMB, 22.8% to North American missions through NAMB, 22.2% to theological education, three percent to the SBC operating budget, and 1.6% to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The budget projection of

see CP on p. 11

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Pale blue dot

As we move rapidly toward the end of another troubling year of human struggle around the globe, the signs of peace and understanding seem few and far between. Entire Christian families are martyred daily. Towns and villages are destroyed for practicing faiths held in contempt by the destroyers.

While Americans don't presently experience that brand of blind, bloodlust mass murder at the hands of madmen, Christians here are nonetheless persecuted — just in more subtle ways.

Meanwhile, the people we have elected to lead us are too often under indictment or being convicted for betraying our trust while attempting to enrich themselves. Sadly, such behavior is not isolated to politicians. Too many of our business, civic, sports, and spiritual leaders are failing us, too. There is corruption surrounding us.

We have been warned that our enemies are planning to test our mettle in catastrophic ways. When and from what direction such an attack (or attacks) will occur are not known, and it's not just our enemies from without who seek to do us harm. We have enemies within, too.

Radical and unpredictable regimes either possess or seek to possess nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as the missiles to deliver their deadly payloads anywhere on earth. More stable countries in turn seek the means to defend themselves, and the most dangerous arms race in human history begins to pick up momentum.

Meanwhile, a proud, defiant Evil One continues to sow confusion, destruction, and death wherever he can, probing at our spiritual boundaries in search of weak spots — and rest assured he will find them.

We are weary. We ask ourselves, what kind of world are we leaving behind for our children?

Perhaps Christians should pause to once again ponder the greatness of our God and the smallness of our being, and acknowledge His authority over all creation.

One example is the pale blue dot. The late astronomer and scientist Carl Sagan was the first to suggest to NASA that the Voyager 1 spacecraft, nearing the end of its mission in 1990 and on the verge of exiting the solar system, turn its camera back toward earth. The result was a phenomenal view of our planet from the heliosheath, an area where the solar

PALE BLUE DOT — The planet earth, set against the vastness of space in this NASA Visible Earth image, was photographed in 1990 by Voyager 1 as the spacecraft passed through the heliosheath, an area beyond the planets where the solar system ends and interstellar space begins. The photograph was taken at a distance of four billion miles, making it the most distant view of earth ever recorded. (NASA photo)

system ends and interstellar space begins, four billion miles from earth.

When the photograph, which took 14 hours to reach earth at the speed of light, was released by NASA's Visible Earth program, observers marveled at the depiction of a tiny earth against the vastness of space. We are, after all, merely a pale blue dot, as Sagan coined the photograph, and without our God, that is all we would ever be.

Thanks to Him, however, every hair on every head is numbered and known to Him. He who spoke the universe into existence is still on His throne, and He cares for each one of us. He set the pale blue dot in place, and continues to watch over it.

Without Him, we are nothing. With Him, anything is possible (Matt. 19:26). What a great truth to take with us on our bumpy journey to the approaching end of the year of our Lord, 2014.

Television: wasteland of horror

Fall is nearly in full swing. Leaves are turning color, Saturdays are filled with football, pumpkins are gracing doorsteps, and firewood is stockpiled. However, there is one harbinger of fall that I dread — when the already arid wasteland of American television engages in an orgy of horror genre promotion.

You cannot watch the news or the ball game without enduring ads for the umpteenth rerun of so-called classic horror films. Stalkers, slashers, serial murderers, and deviants of all kinds are welcomed into our homes, all in the name of good fun. The Frankenstein creations and mummies of my youth have taken a distant back seat to what can only be seen as a sort of national obsession with flesh-eating zombies.

Oddly, I see little concern among Christians over glorifying the perverse and violent. We seem to have so accommodated ourselves to the culture that we simply drink from the fountains that water it, no matter how polluted.

In the name of entertainment, we have forgotten the call of God through Scripture: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2, NASB)

No good comes to Christians when we feed our minds on images and plots that focus on perversion, corruption, deviancy, and gratuitous violence. On this diet, our minds are not renewed and our lives fail to "appear as lights in the world." (Philippians 2:15, NASB)

Many contemporary believers may accuse me, in making this charge, of failing to appreciate the artistic and theatrical merit of these works. Perhaps they have something there. As I faintly recall, my professor from art appreciation class in college seemed to agree when he graded my papers that my artistic perception was pretty dull.

Still more people will rush to label my opinion legalism, a catch-all label of choice whenever anyone calls Christians to any standard of behavior. To be sure, legalism is a dangerous soul-destroying cancer that has too often been found among us, but does the label fit here? I think not for several reasons.

One reason has to do with an oft-neglected facet of theology: anthropology, or the doctrine of man. Christians believe that men are the apex of God's grand creation, created in the very image of God (Genesis 1:26).



Guest opinion
with Paul Brewster

This doctrine should affect how we view the body and life itself.

It is simply incongruous to advocate for the sanctity of life and then embrace as entertainment films that celebrate the wanton destruction of life. Images of men and women being slashed, dismembered, terrorized, and — God forbid — eaten, strike at the heart of our theology.

These are His image bearers. To tear them from limb to limb is a sort of affront to the very God whose being they represent.

The second reason is more straightforward. The Bible plainly tells us not to fill our minds with such muck. It is a matter of obedience to these teachings. Philippians 4:8 is a great truth to keep in mind when weighing entertainment options: "Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable — if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise — dwell on these things." (NASB)

While there is legitimate room for discussion of exactly what falls in line with that rubric and what does not, I think the majority of programming I see advertised easily fails to meet the test. Jesus Himself warned us of the dangers of what we see: "If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell." (Matthew 18:9, NASB)

Christians, the heart is influenced by what we allow to enter through the mind. The mind, in turn, is impacted by what enters through the eye. Our entertainment choices, then, are not spiritually neutral. Choose the television channel wisely and remember the wisdom of God's Word: "Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23, NASB)

Paul Brewster is pastor of Ryker's Ridge Church in Madison, In.

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Dance to help LifeWay bolster pastor relations

NASHVILLE (BP) — Arkansas pastor Mark Dance has joined the staff of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville to lead efforts in building closer relationships with pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention.



DANCE

Dance, senior pastor of Second Church in Conway since 2001, began serving as LifeWay's associate vice president for pastoral leadership on Oct. 1. A native

Texan, Dance has served as a summer missionary in Kenya and Japan as well as on mission teams to more than two dozen countries.

A chaplain for the Conway Police Dept since 2006, Dance is also completing his eighth year as a LifeWay trustee. Prior to his call to Second Church, Dance pastored churches in Tennessee and Texas. He earned a D.Min. from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and an M.Div. from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Dance and his wife Janet, a registered dietitian, have been married 26 years and have two children.

NAMB debuts pastor care line

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptist pastors struggling through a personal or professional crisis now have a confidential place to turn, thanks to a new partnership between the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and Focus on the Family.

The care line, dedicated exclusively to Southern Baptist pastors, chaplains, and missionaries, is toll-free at (844) PASTORI. Calls are answered by Focus on the Family's Family Help Center and remain completely confidential. No information about the name of the pastor or the church will be provided to NAMB.

"The North American Mission Board cares for pastors," said Michael Lewis, NAMB's executive director of pastoral care and development, "and we want to be a part of the compassion of Christ for them and their families."

Lewis said the phone line is an additional way NAMB is attempting to aid pastors, along with marital and family resources, pastor appreciation helps, and initiating Pastors-in-Covenant groups, among other efforts.

NAMB partnered with Focus on the Family in part because the ministry has more than two decades of experience hosting a pastor crisis care line. Focus began the ministry in 1992 under the leadership of H.B. London.

"Focus on the Family recognizes the sacrifices and hard work of Southern Baptist pastors," said Jim Daly (@dalyfocus), president of Focus on the Family. "Many of them give up their own time to be there for their flock, giving up holidays to visit with sick people at the hospital, counseling couples through the tough times in their marriages, and helping their congregants pray through milestone decisions."

"This commitment not only takes time but it also takes its toll on pastors — physically, emotionally and spiritually. Because they have always been there for others, it's our privilege to be there for them. Our licensed counselors are eager to provide an ear and biblically-based counsel that will help and give hope," Daly said.

Jared Pingleton, director of the counseling team for Focus on the Family, said pastors call the care line for a variety of personal and professional reasons such as family problems, emotional issues, leadership crises, and any issue for which a pastor needs safe, biblically-informed counsel.

Editor's note: For a short video introduction to the pastoral care line, visit vimeo.com/namb/review/106840455/47d7c64403. For additional NAMB resources to help pastors, visit sendnetwork.com/pastor-for-pastors/.

Ebola requires Baptist intervention, pastor says

HERNDON, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists should respond to the Ebola crisis in West Africa with the same urgency expended during natural disasters at home and abroad, said James Graham, pastor of Mount Pleasant Church in Herndon, Va.

Southern Baptists have been known for years for our "ability to respond to disasters, whether it's a hurricane disaster, tornadoes in Alabama, or those other things that have taken place across this country," Graham said, "so now is a good time for Southern Baptists to also be responsive to this crisis."

The Ebola crisis "is real," he pointed out. "It should be treated in its own uniqueness, but with as much urgency as Southern Baptists would treat it if it was a crisis right here in the United States."

The first case of Ebola contracted in the U.S. was confirmed on Oct. 12 by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. A Dallas nurse identified as Nina Pham contracted Ebola while caring for Thomas Eric Duncan, who caught the virus in Liberia but was diagnosed and treated in the U.S.

Duncan died Oct. 8 at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

More cases are likely in the U.S. because a breach in safety measures evidently occurred at the hospital during Duncan's treatment and Pham may have exposed a close friend as well as a dog, CDC reported.

The CDC is investigating how the virus spreads among animals.

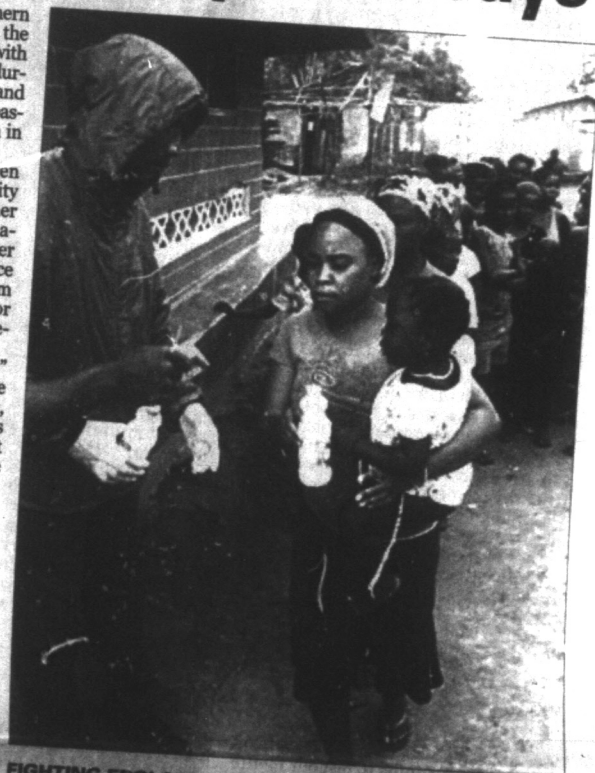
"Unfortunately, it is possible that during the coming days we will see additional cases of Ebola," CDC Director Tom Frieden said at a press conference. Forty-eight people who came in contact with Duncan before he was hospitalized are still being monitored or kept in isolation.

Meanwhile Mount Pleasant Church, a multi-ethnic 2,800-member Southern Baptist congregation with immigrants from about 25 countries, has been responding to the crisis through long-standing ministry partners and the Virginia congregation's church plants in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The church maintains active partnerships in several other African countries and has worked closely with the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board on numerous projects.

"We started helping [ministry partners] as soon as we were notified of the crisis," Graham said.

Working with pastors in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Mount



FIGHTING EBOLA — An unidentified volunteer (left) with Lincoln Brownell's GoYe Ministries, a ministry partner of Mount Pleasant Church in Herndon, Va., distributes bleach, gloves, and buckets to residents of the African village of Sarpawean, Liberia. The items will help the residents sanitize their homes against the Ebola virus. (BP photo courtesy of Mount Pleasant Church)

Pleasant Church has sent money to purchase and distribute disinfectant kits there, and to disseminate information on avoiding and responding to the virus.

Mount Pleasant Church is collecting nonperishable items to send to the countries in November.

"Those are the two places we've been focusing on and distributing primarily disinfectant kits, that is essentially Clorox, buckets, and rubber gloves, and then doing information sessions with the people there in churches concerning the necessity of exercising good hygienic practices — washing their hands, [and] sterilizing and cleaning their floors, eating utensils, and that type of stuff," Graham said.

The church has a long-standing ministry to install water wells in developing countries and will continue those efforts in the communities of Bo and Lungi in Sierra Leone.

"To get them the disinfectant kits and they don't have the water to use with them doesn't do a lot of good, so we're going to continue to push in that direction," Graham said.

At least one of Mount Pleasant Church's ministry partner volunteers has died from Ebola. Napoleon Bathbaite, pastor of Peaceful Church which was planted by Mount Pleasant Church in Liberia, died from the virus. He had worked in a medical clinic where Ebola patients were being treated.

While Mount Pleasant Church's own membership includes first-, second-, and third-generation immigrants from Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria, no blood relatives of Mount Pleasant Church's members have reportedly died from the virus, Graham said.

"It's that culture, where village people become associated with each other and they actually believe they're related, even though they might not be blood related," he said. "We have not gotten any notification of immediate or blood family members of any of our congregants being infected by it so far."

Mount Pleasant Church has ministered to its own congregants during the crisis, educating them about the virus and providing hope and encouragement.

The title of this article reflects on a group of men across our state who more often than not are referred to as bivocational, and sometimes seen more accurately as having a dual vocation. They serve in our churches as pastors and leaders but they also serve working in other professions and vocations. In all honesty, I would have to say most of these men do not just have two jobs or vocations that would appear to be part-time. They are men with two full-time jobs and they do a magnificent work in the kingdom of God. In our state, about 1,500 of our 2,100 pastors of churches fill this role. Some of them are pastors who are also CPAs or doctors or dentists. Others are pastors and have insurance jobs, or sell cars, or teach school, or drive buses or trucks. Some are pastors and work in retail or managerial positions in companies, or operate family owned businesses. Some of our pastors are in construction jobs, and others work in services provided by funeral homes. Each and every one of them is focused on serving the Lord Jesus while at the same time engaged in just about every occupation you could imagine.

They have great examples of living out this multi-faceted role, not just from the farmers and ranchers and frontiersmen who helped settle this great nation, but also from the biblical heroes of the faith. The best known of these is the man who wrote more books of the New Testament than anyone else, the Apostle Paul. He was a prolific writer, but his works are not published by any company, nor did

they appear on the New York Times bestseller list. He traveled extensively in sharing the Gospel, but he was not supported by any travel agency. Occasionally he did get a free trip provided by the Roman Empire, but in all of his travels and all of his evangelistic endeavors, he probably did more to support himself by his abilities as a tentmaker. His insistence on doing that is well known.

It is a wonderful thing for a church to love its shepherd and take care of the leader who is taking care of the flock, but sometimes, because of a number of circumstances, they are not able to do that, and a pastor must provide in part while they are providing in part so they can have a pastor and

the work can continue. Thank God for these men and the ministry they provide and the great heart with which they serve the Lord. Like all of us, and maybe sometimes beyond us, they find themselves pushed to the limit and overwhelmed by the amount of work and the lack of hours in a day to get everything done and every need met and all the preparations for the next service and provide for their family and find a few minutes rest and press on again.

I thank God for who you are, what you do, and the incredible spirit with which you do it. Some time ago I ran into one of our bivocational preachers in a restaurant and he was there in the middle of the afternoon meeting with

some of his members to talk with them about church. Grabbing a few minutes away from his other responsibilities, he sat there at a table taking care of church business. I took a picture of the table and what was right in front of him. There was a piece of pie on a plate, a cup of coffee, a Bible and his cell phone. You get the picture. I started to have it blown up and framed and titled, "The Picture of a Bivocational Pastor." Sure, it might be true of all pastors trying to meet needs and take care of responsibilities and pulled in one direction and then suddenly pulled in another. But for the bivocational, the double blessed guys, it is a constant pull and push and shaking in one direction and then another and somehow by the grace of God they keep their equilibrium, they stay at the task, they maintain a sweet spirit and a great heart for God.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month all across the land. Maybe your church can take a few moments to honor and express appreciation for the servant God has brought to your church. It can make a difference in his life, but if the church is not going to do anything as a corporate body, don't you miss out on letting your pastor know of your love and prayers, your support and encouragement. And that needs to be expressed to them whether they are full-time, part-time, bivocational or even interim. I promise you, you will be blessed for blessing the men of God.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.



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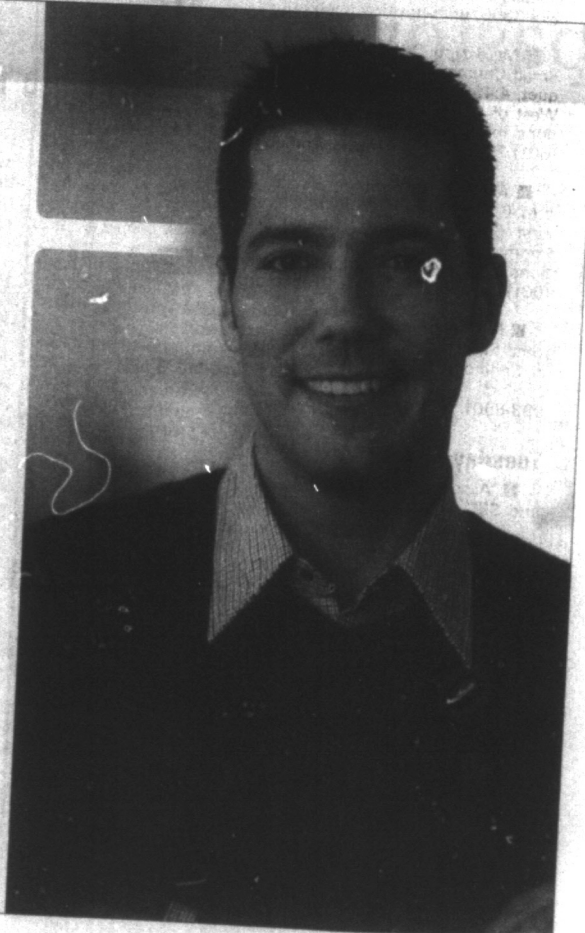
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2014 MBC Schedule of Associated Activities

Monday, Oct. 27

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 9 a.m. in Baptist Building for all Convention Board committees. 10 a.m. in Baptist Building for full 100-member board. Contact Maria Teel at (601) 292-3201, or mteel@mbcb.org.

■ Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (including luncheon) in Christian Life Center Dining Room of First Church, Jackson. Contact Paul Hatrell at (601) 927-7237.

■ MBCB Missions Mobilization Department Pre-Pastors Conference Luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in auditorium of Christian Life Center at First Church, Jackson. Pre-registration required. Contact Beverly Bridges at (601) 292-3398, or bbridges@mbcb.org.

■ Ministers' Wives Conference, 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. on fifth floor of First Church, Jackson. Contact Cathy Taylor at (601) 292-3305, or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

■ Pastors Conference First Session, 1:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. Contact Kenneth Armstrong at (662) 983-8901, or brokenketh@tds.net.

■ Mississippi Council on Bivocational/Small Church Ministries, 3 p.m.-4:45 p.m. in Skyroom (fourth floor) of Baptist Building. Contact Cathy Taylor at (601) 292-3305, or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

■ Mississippi Council on Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet, 4:45 p.m.-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West of First Church, Jackson. Reservations required. Contact Cathy Taylor at (601) 292-3305, or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

■ Acts 1:8 Celebration Dinner, 4:45 p.m.-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West of First Church, Jackson. (Chapel Dining Room reserved for overflow.) Reservations required. Contact Laura Marler at (601) 292-3231, or lmarler@mbcb.org.

■ Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference Second Session, 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. Contact Kenneth Armstrong at (662) 983-8901, or brokenketh@tds.net.

Tuesday, Oct. 28

■ Associational Missions Directors and SBC Seminary Extension Directors

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Meeting First Session, 8:30 a.m.-

Breakfast, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. in Chapel of Baptist Building. Contact Cathy Taylor at (601) 292-3305, or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

11:30 a.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

■ Mississippi College School of Nursing Health Fair, 8 a.m.-noon in Fellowship Hall East (stage area) of First

BUILDING BLOCKS of a BOLD DISCIPLE

...teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
Acts 5:42

179th MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION
October 28-29, 2014
First Baptist Church, Jackson

Church, Jackson. Contact Deborah Bolian at (601) 925-3391, or bolian@mc.edu.

■ Southwestern Seminary Alumni Luncheon, noon in Rooms 307-308 of the Christian Life Center at First Church, Jackson. Advance ticket purchase required. Contact Archie Herrin at archie_herrin@att.net, or Paul Blanchard at amd@winstonbaptist.org.

■ New Orleans Seminary Alumni Association Luncheon, noon-1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall West of First Church, Jackson. Pay at door. Contact Glenn Jackson at (601) 513-9306, or jacksong5678@yahoo.com.

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Second Session, 1:30 p.m.-4:40 p.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

■ William Carey University Alumni Dinner, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. in Parlor of First Church, Jackson. Contact Cindy Cofield at (601) 318-6561, or ccofield@wmcarey.edu.

■ Chaplains Fall Banquet, 4:45 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Skyroom (fourth floor) of Baptist Building. Contact Carol Wright at (601) 292-3334, or cwright@mbcb.org.

■ Blue Mountain College Alumni Dinner, 5 p.m. in Christian Life Center Dining Room of First Church, Jackson. Advance tickets available at BMC booth in exhibit hall (Fellowship Hall East of First Church, Jackson). Contact Nancy Hopps McDonald at (862) 685-4771 ext. 119, or nmcdonald@bmc.edu.

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Third Session, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Fourth Session, 8:30 a.m.-11:35 a.m. in Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Board 2014 Organizational Meeting, Skyroom (fourth floor) of Baptist Building immediately following adjournment of annual meeting. Contact Maria Teel at (601) 292-3201, or mteel@mbcb.org.

Music leadership training course opens for enrollment

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Building Your Music Ministry, the sixth in a series of eight courses offered at four locations in Mississippi and sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in cooperation with Providence Learning Center at New Orleans Seminary, is now open for enrollment.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and

has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a certificate from Providence Learning Center.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$100. A \$60 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

Building Your Music Ministry will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecu-

tive weeks at the following locations and times. (Note the Brookhaven location meets on Saturday.)

■ First Church, Cleveland. Began Oct. 14. 6-8 p.m. Alan Berry, teacher, (662) 843-2701.

■ First Church, Marion. Began Oct. 6. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Buddy McElroy, teacher. (601) 938-8668.

■ Brookhaven area (location to be announced). Begins Oct. 25. 9 a.m.-noon. Mark Hamilton, teacher. (601) 835-6607.

■ First Church, Booneville. Began Oct. 14. 6:30-8:30 p.m. LuAnne Ford, teacher. (662) 728-6272.

The eight courses are Basic Conducting; Worship/Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Songs and Hymns for Worship; Building Your Music Ministry; Church Music Resources; and Class Voice.

The courses are designed to provide basic training for bivo-

cational music directors and other music leaders in churches, and in most locations meet two hours per week with each course being eight weeks in length. Saturday locations may vary.

For more information, contact the teacher listed by location above or Slater Murphy, MBCB church music director, at (601) 292-3276 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 276. E-mail: smurphy@mbcb.org.

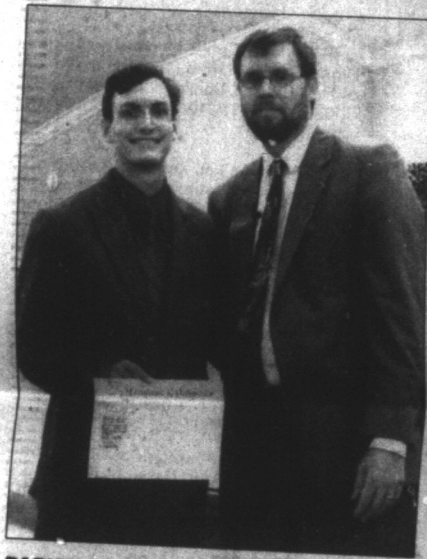
Just for the Record



CALVARY CHURCH, SUMMIT, treated its children to a special day learning about missions. Robby Aaron, Lizzie Hobby, Marisa Siebert, and Hunter Wills, BSU students from SWMCC, presented information about their short-term mission trips. About 26 children participated.



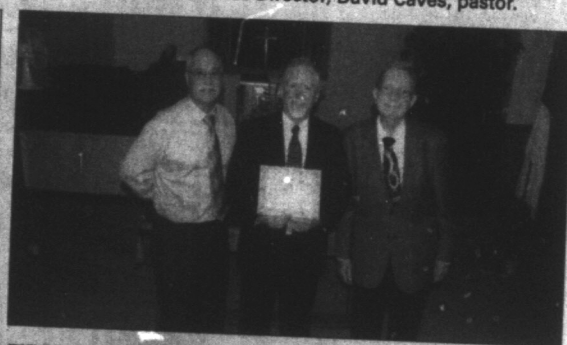
TOOMSUBA CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION, presented Lou Butts a certificate of recognition from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Church Growth Department for 75 years service through the Sunday School; Jeremy Collins, Education Ministries Director, David Caves, pastor.



PARKWAY CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, ordained Daniel Fortenberry Sept. 7. Shown are Fortenberry and Derrick Wilson.



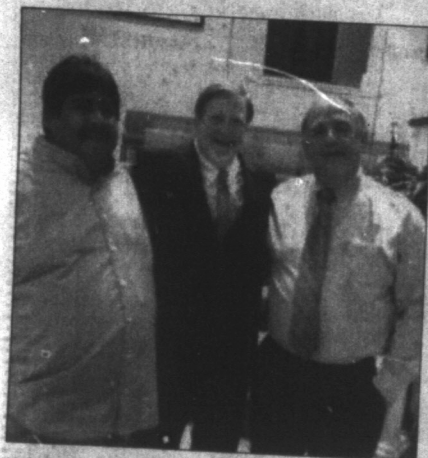
GILLSBURG CHURCH, OSYKA, held a Blessing of the Hunt, with Geraldine Wall, Leni Wascomb, Katelyn Bridges, and Dalton Williams, IV, being the best dressed.



FIRST CHURCH, DAYS, ordained Randy Nelson to the gospel ministry Sept. 21. Shown are Joe Crawford, Nelson, and pastor Bob Maddux.



NEW PROSPECT CHURCH, LINCOLN COUNTY ASSOCIATION, packed 20 hospice buckets for the Baptist Global Response project.



MORRISON CHAPEL CHURCH, CLEVELAND, ordained Jessie Palacious and Bill Quinton as deacons. Shown are Palacious, pastor John Thomas, and Quinton.



TOOMSUBA CHURCH, LAUDERDALE ASSOCIATION, presented pastor David Caves and his wife Lori a month of meals in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. Shown are Caves and Jennifer Laboe.



WEST HEIGHTS CHURCH, PONTOTOC, ordained Ricky Ferguson and Kenneth "Buddy" Clowers as deacons Sept. 14. Shown are Ferguson and Clowers.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **New Hope Church, Walnut Grove:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m., Shane McGivney, speaker; Sun., 6 p.m., Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mason Joy, speaker; Teresa Savell, music.

► **First Church Oloh, Sumrall:** 112th homecoming, Oct. 19, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; John Innabnit, speaker; Todd Blackwell, worship leader.

► **New Goodhope Church, Pulaski:** Revival and homecoming, Oct. 17 - 19; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Glenn Hayman, speaker; Danny and Nancy Harrison, music.

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Newton:** Homecoming, Oct. 19; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Billy Murphy, speaker; Ras Jones, music; Marty Wilson, pastor.

► **Friendship Church, Brookhaven:** Revival, Oct. 19 - 23; service, 11 a.m., followed by meal and 7 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, David Fortenberry, and Anthony Yarbrough, speakers; Chance McMinn, worship leader.

► **South Nettleton Church, Nettleton:** Revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Kerry Nelson, speaker and music.

► **Klimichael Church, Klimichael:** Homecoming, Oct. 19; services, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and fellowship; call (662) 262-5507 to register.

► **Riverside Church, Monroeville:** Revival, Oct. 20 - 22, 7 p.m. nightly; Nathan Gorman, speaker; Ray Mattox, piano; Lynn Welch, music and pastor.

► **Liberty Church, Stringer:** Revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; David McCord, speaker; Homecoming, Nov. 2, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Mike Anderson, speaker; Stubborn Love, music.

► **Blythe Creek Church, Choctaw:** Homecoming Oct. 19; hymn singing, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Mike Fodren, speaker and pastor; Sandra Williams, music.

► **First Church, Days:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 19 - 22; Dennis Landrum, speaker.

► **New Hebron Church, New Hebron:** Homecoming and Ministry Center building dedication service, Nov. 2; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon; Sonny Adkins, speaker; Charles Davis, Derek Lambert, and David Wilkinson, and other former pastors, special guests.

Just for the Record



Ladies of **FIRST CHURCH, QUITMAN**, recently made witness dolls to be used on mission trips and sent to missionaries around the world. The church has taken or sent around 250 dolls to six different countries. Gene Neal, pastor.



The Children in Action of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, held a spaghetti lunch after church on September 7 in honor of Grandparents Day. Pictured are Alyssa Ainsworth, Hunter Ainsworth, Vaden Latham, Staci Herrington, Angelina Atkins, and McKenzie Ainsworth.

In other Church News:

► Buddy Watts will be in concert at **First Church, Gautier**, Oct. 26, 6 p.m.



Is your Bible Study for Preschoolers and Children healthy?

Training Web Cast
PRESCHOOL Leadership
Thursday, November 13
6:30-8:00 P.M.

Hosted and led by Mississippi Sunday School Leaders along with a panel of local ministry leaders AND

November 13: Clara Mae Van Brink,
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Join with us at no cost from wherever you are on your computer/laptop, phone, tablet, iPod. Connect with us on November 13 at www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining You can also submit comments or questions via a live chat during the webcast.

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Sunday School Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800, ext 291



GRACE CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, recognized Lillian Killen for 69 years of dedication in the music ministry. Shown are minister of music Tim Moore, Killen, and pastor Chester Carlisle.



Jonathan Poe, 19 years old, of Collinsville, a student at Mississippi College, was ordained into the ministry September 28 at his home church, **PINE FOREST CHURCH, COLLINSVILLE**. The charge was led by his grandfather, deacon David Sessums Sr. T. J. Jennings, pastor and Clay Pope, associate pastor, also participated in the service. Shown are Poe and Jennings.



TRINITY CHURCH, PEARL, ordained two new deacons. Shown are pastor Kenny Goff, Steve Stephens, and Tim Hendricks.

First Person: Tired of being overweight? Try simple plan

SIXTH IN A SERIES

By Whitney Raju
Correspondent

The next time you attend a meeting, look around at the participants and estimate how many you think are overweight or obese.

The clinical definition for overweight is having a BMI (Body Mass Index) of



RAJU

25-29.9. The clinical definition of obese is having a BMI of 30 and higher.

BMI is determined by a formula using height and weight. You can find several apps on the Internet you can use to calculate your individual BMI, and I encourage you to do so. For those of you saying, "I may be carrying some extra pounds, but I'm not overweight," you may be denying the facts. The average female adult is 63.8 inches in height, weighs 166.2 pounds, has a waist circumference of 37.5 inches and a BMI of approximately 29.4.

The average male adult is 69.3 inches in height, weighs 195.5 pounds, has a waist circumference of 39.7 inches and a BMI of approximately 29.6. Statistics for the year 2011 from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show 34% of adults ages 20 years and older are overweight, with an additional

35% considered obese. Approximately 18% of adolescents (ages 12-19), 18% of children (ages six-11), and 12% of children (ages two to five) are considered obese.

Obesity is a significant health issue in our country. The HealthWorks physician panel members all agree that the majority of people they see in clinic visits have issues related to being overweight. Heart issues, cancer, orthopedic concerns, and even the inability to sleep well can all be affected by being overweight.

The incidence of obesity in our children is both appalling and sad.

One has to ask the question, "How did we get to this point?" For most people, the answer is simple and straightforward: we consume too much and get too little exercise. The logical prescription to cure obesity would be just the opposite: eat less and move more. It is easy to say but much, much harder to do. The type of food we choose (i.e., processed fast foods instead of healthier options) is a major contributor to the obesity epidemic.

The HealthWorks DVD session that deals with this issue is titled, *Change Your Mind*. To address the issue of obesity, we are going to have to change both how we think and how we act. Contrary to the ads you see on television, there are no miracle pills, drinks, or diets to take weight off and keep it off. It requires taking responsibility for your lifestyle and developing the self-discipline to make the right personal choices. This session talks

about the patterns we've created in our lives that are adding to our weight issues.

Most of us eat our largest and heaviest meal at the end of the day, then go sit on the couch or go to bed. Actually, we should be doing just the opposite to keep our metabolism optimized.

Breakfast should be the largest and most nutrition-packed meal of the day. Lunch should be lighter, with dinner being the lightest and smallest meal of the day. How do your meals add up?

Most of us say, "I don't have time to exercise," when what we really mean is, "I don't have time to go to the gym or health club." Neither a gym nor health club is necessary for exercise. When is the last time your family walked around your neighborhood after dinner, instead of watching TV or playing video games?

I hope you enjoy the HealthWorks DVD series. I believe when you understand having good health really works for you and your entire family and you begin to take responsibility for what you eat and how much you exercise, you will see good results begin to happen.

The HealthWorks DVD series is informative, entertaining, and wrapped in a Bible study format that just may inspire you to get started. Learn more about this series and place an order at HealthWorksDVD.com.

Raju is a physician specializing in internal medicine at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

Miss. Baptist Pastor's Conference set Oct. 27 at First Church Jackson

Due to technical problems, several items failed to appear in the schedule for the 2014 Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference that was published in the Oct. 9 issue of *The Baptist Record*. Please disregard the Oct. 9 schedule and substitute the following schedule. The Baptist Record regrets the omissions.

Afternoon Session

- 1:00 p.m. Preliminary Worship
- 1:20 p.m. Welcome - Kenneth Armstrong
- 1:25 p.m. Prayer - Brannon Armstrong
- 1:30 p.m. Special Music
- 1:35 p.m. Sermon - Casey Johnson
- 2:15 p.m. NOBTS Presentation - Dr. Norris Grubbs
- 2:20 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 2:30 p.m. NAMB Presentation - Ben Barfield
- 2:40 p.m. Prayer - Dr. Donald Baggett
- 2:45 p.m. Sermon - Dr. Robert Jeffress
- 3:25 p.m. Election of Officers - Kenneth Armstrong
- 3:30 p.m. Clubhouse Guatemala Presentation - Mike Parker
- 3:40 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 3:45 p.m. Offering and Prayer - David Hayes
- 3:55 p.m. Special Music
- 4:00 p.m. Sermon - Landon Dowden
- 4:40 p.m. Prayer of Benediction for Afternoon Session - Ken Rhodes

Evening Session

- 5:45 p.m. Preliminary Worship
- 6:15 p.m. MABTS Presentation - Dr. Tim Seal
- 6:20 p.m. Prayer - Jason Middleton
- 6:25 p.m. Special Music
- 6:30 p.m. Sermon - Wade Stevens
- 7:10 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 7:15 p.m. Conference Theme by 2014 President - Kenneth Armstrong
- 7:30 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 7:35 p.m. Offering and Prayer - Derek Wilson
- 7:40 p.m. Special Music
- 7:45 p.m. Sermon - David Miller
- 8:25 p.m. Presentation of 2015 Officers - Kevin Jackson
- Benediction

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

ITFG YFJFUFYFK Q ITF NAYK AX ITF
PAYK, TAN ITSI TF RSQK, ZATG QGKFFK
USOIQCFK NQIT NSIFY; UDI WF RTSPP
UF USOIQCFK NQIT ITF TAPW MTARI.
SEIR FPFBBFG; RQLIFFG

CLUE: M = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 3:12

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

College News



Steve Knight, shown, head men's basketball coach and athletic director at **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**, has been selected for the 2015 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. A reception was held in his honor on October 2 at WCU.

MS POSITIONS

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TION.** Send resume to: First Baptist Church,
Music Committee, P. O. Box 458, Potts
Camp, Ms 38659

**FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH IN
MOSELLE, MS IS LOOKING FOR A PART-
TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send resume
to 942 Moselle Seminary Rd, Moselle, Ms
39459 or email to fairfield@bayspringstet.net

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below; and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

MARRIAGE

cont. from p. 1

Mississippi House of Representatives member Andy Gipson, an attorney and bivocational pastor of Gum Springs Church in Braxton, is a graduate of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton and the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson. He is chair of the House's Judiciary B Committee.

"I am opposed to same-sex marriage, but I believe the time has come for people of faith in Mississippi to prepare for the overturning of our constitutional ban on it," Gipson told The Clarion Ledger newspaper in Jackson on Oct. 9.

"I've said that preaching at my church," Gipson said in the article by Geoff Pender. "It's coming. People of religious conviction need to be processing what this means for the culture, and how we will respond to these issues in coming years — how we will maintain our religious convictions in this environment."

Andrew Walker, a Southern Baptist public policy specialist, said with sadness the effort to "redefine marriage is perhaps the fastest, most ef-

"Even within the states, the signs are discouraging. Increasingly, marriage's definition is coming from the courts within these states and circuits, rather than through citizens. [The Supreme Court's action] reinforces the troubling trend that individual states and [their] citizens are left unprotected from the actions of judges that view themselves as Philosopher-Kings."

Andrew Walker

director of policy studies for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC)

fective social change in our nation's history... The further erosion or deinstitutionalization of marriage that comes by redefining it will re-wire or re-circuit how we understand family arrangements."

The Supreme Court's decision not to review the lower-court opinions means citizens "now have a more diminished role in making important decisions about the meaning of marriage and family," said Walker, director of policy studies for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

While the high court's orders leave same sex marriage a matter within the states,

Walker wrote in an Oct. 6 blog post, "Even within the states, the signs are discouraging. Increasingly, marriage's definition is coming from the courts within these states and circuits, rather than through citizens. [The Supreme Court's action] reinforces the troubling trend that individual states and [their] citizens are left unprotected from the actions of judges that view themselves as Philosopher-Kings."

Same sex marriage will be one of the topics at the ERLC's national conference Oct. 27-29 in Nashville. The conference is titled "The Gospel, Homosexuality, and the Future of Marriage."

KBC

cont. from p. 1

In other words, sexual identity or orientation will not be a factor in determining whether the church will ordain, hire or perform a wedding ceremony.

KBC Committee on Credentials chairman Kevin Smith said committee members found Crescent Hill Church to be no longer "in friendly cooperation" with Kentucky Baptists. That led to the committee's action, which was taken only after a series of private discussions between KBC and Crescent Hill Church leaders, Smith said.

Jason Crosby, minister of preaching, pastor care, and administration at Crescent Hill Church, told Associated Baptist Press (ABP) that he was saddened by the KBC committee's decision.

"However, I am glad to serve a Baptist church in Kentucky that is striving to communicate to all people, whether they be LGBTQ or KBC folks, that there is room for them at God's table where love and grace abound," Crosby said.

Crescent Hill Church, which was involved in organizing the breakaway Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 1991, joined the

Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists in October of 2013, according to ABP.

The web site for the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists describes the organization as, "The National Voice for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allied Baptists in the US."

KBC President Chip Hutcheson, a layman and newspaper publisher from Princeton, said the decision to sever ties with Crescent Hill Church will be presented for discussion and a vote at the convention's annual meeting in Bowling Green on Nov. 11.

CLASSIFIEDS

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with love and respect, those who are and have been a part of our special family.

JUNE 2014

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Arlington Heights BC
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Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Mrs. Betty Hancock
Carl & Jeanette Arnold
Bill & Robin Arnold
Charlie & Lynda Gambrell
Mike & Debbie Herndon
Claudette Bryant
Mon. Afternoon Friends, FBC
Taylorsville
Vera Windham
Frances Haney-Cornish
Mrs. Margaret B. Williams
Doris Harper
Mt. Gilead BC
Patricia Harper
Mt. Gilead BC
Ruth Harper
Mt. Gilead BC
Ms. Annette Harvey
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Dorothy Hasson
Floyd Robbins
Michael Tait Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. David B. Ingram
Mrs. Helen Herman
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Newsom
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander
James Hinton
Roy & Ann Moore
Beulah Hollings
Mt. Gilead BC
R. T. Hollis
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Auline Holloman
Mt. Gilead BC
Mrs. Holmes
Ms. Cathy A. Jenkins
Mrs. Patsy "Pat" Boyd Holmes
Men's 2 SSC, Eastside BC
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Memorial Hospital
Ms. Lucy B. Harris
Mrs. Helen C. Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Nelda Howard
Mrs. Helen Brown
Mr. Robert L. Humphrey
Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Allen Adams Hunter
Mrs. Edna M. Gilliland
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag
Margaret Ivy
Barbara Easterling
Jim Hargis
Ronnie C. James
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy A. Simmons
Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Polk
Mattie Jarman
Mt. Gilead BC
Ann Jefcoats
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Hodges
Lester Jeffers
Mr. E. Jack Murphy
Ruby Jensen
Mt. Gilead BC
Jim Pat Johnson
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Elizabeth Kennedy
Maurice Beatty & Pat Keigley

Kathryn Mitchell Key
Mt. Gilead BC
Lucille Knight
Mt. Gilead BC
Julie Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward
Beverly Lloyd
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Miller, Jr.
Frank Loftus
Sr. Adult Ladies SSC, College
Hill Heights BC
College Hill Heights BC
Mrs. Lanie Long
Patricia & Annie Pearl Triplett
Lori Loper
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Burnett
Raymond Magee
Wells Creek Hunting Club
Ms. Sandy Magee
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Tinye B. Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Barham
Kay Mattor
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
John McCall
Mr. & Mrs. Jennings Dixon
Carrie Belle McCollum
Joy McDonald
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Wayne McDuff
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan
Rita McInnis
Mt. Gilead BC
Mrs. Jewel Merritt
Mr. & Mrs. Danny E. Daves
Billy Mills
Mrs. Ernestine M. Lindsley
Mr. Richard Joe Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mrs. Sharon Morgan
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Gore, III
Bobbie Nell Harris Musgrove
Lena Norris SSC, Moselle
Memorial BC

Bill Nelms
Mr. & Mrs. Hembree Brandon
Luke Newman
Sally Hefner & Family
Mrs. Nalda Oakes
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Calvin Oglesby
Ms. Audrey L. Hill
Patsy Clark Pace
Barbara Easterling
Jim Hargis
Robert (Bob) Palmer
Ms. Margie Truhitt
J. V. Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker
Mary Katherine Parker
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker
Mr. Allen Payne
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Keith Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Joe Williams
Mrs. Margaret B. Williams
Mrs. Marlene Permenter
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Richard Pickett
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Beard
Mrs. Pat Pierce
Rev. William B. Webb
Charles Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Crow
Mrs. Letha Powers
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Alexander
Marie Powers
Mt. Gilead BC
Ida Delean Pruden
Bethel BC
Raymond Quinn
Mrs. Delta Walton
Tom Rainey
Mrs. Kim R. Doherty
Christine Redden
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Prewitt
and Ernie Hawkins

BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Public Relations Assistant (BCV Headquarters, Ridgeland, MS)

Public Relations Assistant is a part-time (minimum of 20 hours) entry level position. This staff member should have a background in public relations, communications, journalism, marketing or other related field. A bachelor's degree is preferred, but one with equivalent experience or who is a senior level student in one of the aforementioned fields of study will be considered. This staff member should have strong writing, research and organizational skills, and have an understanding and respect for deadlines. It is important that they have an excellent phone presence and be enthusiastic, articulate, poised and professional in all circumstances. They must know Windows, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and be Internet and Social Media savvy, and be able to learn quickly and be trained on special software packages and applications. They must be available for some travel and willing, on occasion, to put in additional hours or be available on a weekend for special projects and events. In addition, they must have a willingness to learn and adapt to changing and new responsibilities. It is imperative that this individual have a strong understanding of Mississippi Baptist ministry and culture, and the ability to work graciously and productively in a variety of environments, and with a variety of people.

The Public Relations Assistant will work closely with the Public Relations Manager and the Public Relations Director, and is expected to understand and respect deadlines and complete all tasks and projects accurately and on time. They will be expected to provide general administrative and public relations support to the Public Relations Director and Public Relations Manager in the areas of communication, fundraising, in-kind gifts, volunteers, special events, traditional media, new and social media, and technology.

The person who works in this capacity must be a mature Christian adult with personal integrity, character and reputation consistent with the standards and ethics expected of any member of The BCV staff. This position requires a congenial personality and a willingness to work effectively with varying personalities both internally and externally. They must also demonstrate a passion for The Baptist Children's Village mission.

To be considered for this position, you will need to complete the full employment application (available on our website www.baptistchildrensvillage.com), which includes a statement of faith and submit it along with a copy of your resume to Celeste Cade, Public Relations Manager, 114 Marketridge Drive, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

Deadline to apply: October 20, 2014

Only Jesus Saves • Hebrews 7:23-28

A Permanent Priest (23-24) Numbers 20:27-29, "27 Moses did as the Lord commanded: They went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community. 28 Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. And Aaron died there on top of the mountain."

The Aaronic priests were appointed on a hereditary principle, but none enjoyed the priestly dignity in perpetuity. Aaron, the first of Israel's high priests, served his people throughout the wilderness wanderings. But on his death, Eleazar his son succeeded him. After the settlement in the land of Canaan Eleazar died (Josh. 24:33) and was succeeded by his son Phinehas. This succession continued until the fall of the second temple in A.D. 70, when temple worship ceased. According to Josephus, eighty-three high priests in all served from Aaron until the end. There is good reason for our author's assertion: those other priests were 'appointed in numerous succession' (NEB) because death prevented them from continuing in office. The mortality of the Levites has been mentioned previously (7:8). (Hebrews, O'Brien, Logos).

Able to Save (7:25) Christ is able to save his people utterly because he always lives to intercede for them. This describes the active, representative ministry which Christ effects for believers during this

present age. The adverbial clause, he always lives, is an inference drawn from Psalm 110:4, and 'asserts emphatically that Jesus' capacity for effectively acting on behalf of his people is unlimited'. The verb rendered to intercede basically means 'to meet, or encounter' and comes to be used of an 'approach on behalf of someone'. (Hebrews, O'Brien, Logos)

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him...How do those draw near to God to be saved?

We find the answer in John 6:43-46, "43 Jesus answered them, 'Do not grumble among yourselves. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— 46 not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Paul said it a different way in Romans

10:17, "17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Those who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit and now have access to God through Christ and he lives to make intercession for them...Romans 8:26-27, "26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know

what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he

looks at His absolute purity. "Separated from sinners" probably refers to His being in a different class from sinful people. Jesus was not only inherently pure, but He remains pure in all His contacts with sinners. (Hebrews, Constable, 74)

The contrast between the levitical order and the order of Melchizedek could not be more marked: the former compromising a numerous succession of mortal and sinful priests offering over and over again a multitude of sacrifices, a system by its very nature stamped with imperfection and impermanence; the latter comprising but one priest, one because of the spotless sanctity of his ever continuing life, who offered up but one sacrifice, one because of its all-sufficient fullness, susceptible therefore of neither addition nor repetition, the sacrifice, moreover, not of some uncomprehending beast, but of himself, the beloved Son of God, who by reason of his incarnation was able to offer up himself in our stead. (Hebrews, Hughes, 278)

Jesus Christ is the permanent priest, who is able to save because of his divine character. Place your believe and trust in Him and he will save you today!

Hazzard is pastor of Woodland Church, Columbus.



Explore the Bible
with Shelby Hazzard

who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Because of His Character (26-28) In view of His superior ministry it is only fitting that our High Priest should be a superior Person. "Holy" (Gr. hosios) stresses blamelessness. (Another word translated "holy," hagios, stresses separateness.) "Innocent" means without guile or malice. "Undefiled/unstained"

Overcome Betrayal • Genesis 37:19-27; 39:1-2

His would definitely qualify as a rags-to-riches story. According to Bloomberg Businessweek, Ralph de la Vega recently became head of Merged Wireless and Business Division at AT&T, Inc. This position garners him a yearly salary of \$891,667, and his "total calculated compensation" is well over \$8 million. Prior to that, he was the Chief Executive Officer and President of AT&T Mobility LLC, also serving as its Chief Operating Officer, the article states. De la Vega's fascinating story, detailing his travel from Cuba and arrival on U.S. soil as a 10-year-old scared little boy separated from his parents, to an incredible ascent up the ladder of business success, is chronicled in his book, "Obstacles Welcome" (Thomas Nelson Publisher).

Another life, although not a "rags-to-riches" story, is presented in "A Man, A Mountain, & God". Unlike de la Vega, Bill Barton never became rich in dollars and cents, but he overcame daunting physical obstacles and heartbreaking events to enrich the lives of thousands. Born with a harelip and cleft palate, his speech as a child was almost unintelligible. However, God called this unlikely candidate into the ministry. The beloved pastor also went on to establish the Homes of Grace, which have provided deliverance from drug and alcohol abuse for men and women since the mid-1960s (www.homeofgrace.org).

These two stories prove that obstacles can be faced with confidence and overcome. During the next six weeks, we'll focus on the theme of "Overcome: Living Beyond Your Circumstances". Delving into Genesis, we'll study the life of a favorite Bible character, Joseph, who certainly had his share of obstacles. His steadfast faith over long years in God's "waiting room" resulted in an incredibly happy ending.

Joseph's family was definitely dysfunctional. He had brothers from his mother, Rachel, and three other women. Jacob (also called "Israel"), the father, "loved Joseph more than any of his other sons", and showed this favoritism by making a "richly ornamented robe for him" (Gen. 37:3 NIV). The sting of jealousy burned hotly in the hearts of the brothers (vs. 4), especially after Joseph (possibly wearing his dashing robe), told of vivid dreams that seemed to foretell his family bowing in obeisance before him (vs. 5-9).

Bible Studies for Life
with Ann Maniscalco



Today's story picks up with a conversation between Jacob and Joseph. The other sons were a distance away, grazing their flocks, and Jacob sent Joseph to check on them. As the hated brother approached, the others, their minds clouded by unbridled resentment, cooked up a plan to get rid of this favorite son. Killing him, and then lying about it to their father seemed an excellent solution (vs. 19-20). One of them, Reuben, began to have second thoughts and suggested,

"Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert" (vs. 22). He'd rescue him

later, he surmised, and bring him back home. As Joseph arrived, his brothers attacked him forcefully: note the words "stripped" and "threw" in verse 21. No doubt, Joseph landed with a thud in the bottom of the dry cistern. As painful as this must have been physically, the wounds of his brothers' betrayal surely cut much deeper.

Reuben must have left the premises

long enough for his plan to go awry. A caravan of Ishmaelite traders appeared on the horizon, carrying spices and other merchandise to sell in Egypt. Why not add a slave to the cargo, Judah suggested, and his brothers concurred (vs. 27). As the traders departed with their new possession, surely the men thought they'd seen the last of their brother.

Upon his arrival in Egypt, Joseph was purchased; he became a household servant in the Egyptian home of Potiphar, one of the Pharaoh's officials (Gen. 39:1-2). However, a ray of hope is cast on the scene: "The Lord was with Joseph" (vs. 2). Despite all his brothers had done and all that had happened as a result of their actions, the Lord remained faithful.

Joseph had experienced the bitter taste of betrayal. All he held dear was suddenly wrenched away from him, it seemed. But in reality, what was most precious (and needful) remained: his relationship with God. We've all faced betrayal in some form. Such can make us bitter or better. Faith calls us to take the high road: "for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4 NIV). That's a verse worth taping to your bathroom mirror.

Maniscalco is a member of Lemoyne Boulevard Church in Biloxi.

CP

cont. from p. 1

\$188 million that began this week is a realistic goal — a 0.76 percent increase over this past year's actual receipts," Page

said. "It will take confidence in our ministries and personal sacrifice to reach and surpass our 2014-2015 budget goal for impacting our world and our nation with the Gospel. I ask you to join me in asking the Lord to let it be so."

The budget outlook comes at a time when the SBC continues to encourage Cooperative Program giving from local churches through the "1% CP Challenge." Page has challenged Southern Baptist churches to increase their

CP contributions by one percentage point of their annual church budgets.

If every cooperating Southern Baptist church would accept the 1% CP Challenge, Page said, "it would generate millions of dollars for the Con-

vention's aggressive international missions outreach, its intentional church planting and evangelism strategies, and its programs for ministerial preparation," in addition to numerous state and other national ministry initiatives.

Just for the Record



CRESTVIEW CHURCH, PEARL, baptized four believers Oct. 5. Shown are Paul Smith, Colon Wade, Genesis Lunsford, and Lauren Touchstone with pastor Steve Smith.



FIRST CHURCH, GULFPORT, baptized 16 during baptism service on September 18. James Stewart, pastor.



The **CALVARY CHURCH YOUTH, BOGUE CHITTO**, had an special outdoor movie night watching the movie, God Is Not Dead. Jason and Jenny Leggett are Youth Ministers. Hal Hatton is pastor.



The Children in Action of **BRANCH CHURCH, MORTON**, recently held their annual recognition service. Shown, front row, are Hunter Ainsworth, McKenzie Ainsworth, and Alyssa Ainsworth; back row, Staci Herrington, Katie Huff, Angelica Atkins, Vaden Latham, and Haleigh Herrington.



Bubba Hollfield was ordained into the gospel ministry September 14 at **ROCK BLUFF CHURCH, DANIEL**. Pictured left to right: Floyd Stevenson, Donnie Stuart, pastor of Rock Bluff and Mississippi Baptist Convention 2nd VP; Hollfield; and Billy Parker.



Seventeen children participated in a new Christian class taught by Susan Honeycutt at **CENTER HILL CHURCH, HAMILTON**. Terry Edwards, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, CALHOUN CITY, recently honored Virginia Boland, center, for 54 years of service at the piano. She is shown with her family and worship leader Tim Hardaway.



The class for mature adults, **NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY**, saved up for a cookout held at teacher Jessie McCrory's home in the Teoc community late September. Shown are cooks Joe Beckwith, Jessie McCrory, Mary Scroggins, and Shirley McCrory.